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Japan

Planting Seeds

Notice of Proposed Rulemaking: Labeling Requirements for "Designated Seed Varieties"

2004

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Report Highlights:

The Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has announced a plan to amend the current Seed and Seedling Act. The amendment will likely expand the list of "Designated Seeds and Seedlings" and increase labeling requirements. This early opportunity for comment closes February 5, 2004. There will be a second opportunity under World Trade Organization (WTO) auspices.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

MAFF has proposed amending the list of " Designated Seeds and Seedlings" (DSS), under Section 5, Article 2 of the current Seeds and Seedlings Act (the Act). The proposal is to expand the list of DSS and increase labeling requirements. MAFF has provided an initial comment period that will close February 5, 2004. There will be a second, 45 day, opportunity to comment under the auspices of the WTO.

The Act provides for 128 varieties of the seeds and seedlings as " Designated Seeds and Seedlings." DSS are required to include product labels with the following information:

- (1) Name of the seed producer or firm and the address
- (2) Name of the seed grouping (e.g. vegetable, flower) and seed variety
- (3) Name of the site of seed production
- (4) Date of the seed harvest or term of validity for the seed and its germination rate.
- (5) Quantity
- (6) Other information, required under MAFF's ministry orders, such as;
 - ?? whether or not a pesticide was used in the seed production against blights,
 - ?? the name of a pesticide, if used, and
 - ?? in the case of a seed germ
 - i. Date the germ was manufactured.
 - ii. Presence or absence of a trichoderma

Examples of Designated Seeds and Seedlings by variety

Seed Variety	Number of Varieties	Products affected include seeds, spores, stems, saplings, seedlings, etc.
Grains	5	(Seed) Rice, Barley, Rye, Wheat, Soybean,
Vegetables	36	(Seed) Asparagus, Pumpkin, Water Melon, Sweet Corn, Carrot, Green Onion, Chinese Cabbage, Broccoli , etc. (Seedling) Strawberry
Fruit Trees	15	(Seedling) Fig, Persimmon, Walnut, Pear, Peach, etc.
Flower Trees	32	Cyclamen, Pansy, Iris, Carnation, Symposium, etc.
Feed & Pasture Crops	24	(Seed) Alfalfa, Italian Rye Grass, Kentucky Blue Grass, Sorghum, Timothy, Maze, etc.
Mushrooms	16	(Spore) Shiitake Mushroom, Blue Dandelion, etc.
Total	128	

The deadline for comments is February 5, 2004. Additional information, comments or suggestions may be forwarded to:

Attn. Seeds and Seedlings Division
 Agricultural Production Bureau,
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.
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